

HB 57  
OPPERATING BUDGET  
OPPOSING  
DOCUMENTS

March 4, 2017

#73

Doug Swanson

Anchorage, AK

Issue: Cut government, PFD

It's obvious that the legislature is far more interested in saving government than it is in solving current, temporary fiscal problems. Oil prices will go up again, but we will be stuck with a batch of taxes and other economic crippling "solutions" imposed by your legislation. Remember, the only real economy is in the private sector, not in government, because only the private economy can produce the income that government spends.

First off, there has been no serious attempt to determine where the State should be spending money. You can't build a budget until we decide how much government is necessary. That has been ignored in favor of creating ways to keep government funded. When the State Supreme Court arrogantly states that it cannot accept a cut of more than 3.5%, it is a sure sign that this government is rooted in a fantasy world of denial. The Chief Justice has no concept of what a real cut is, such as being laid off and accepting a 100% pay loss. The problems in this state are related to binge spending and not insufficient revenue.

The incredible intelligence of the Permanent Fund was to prevent government from having access to all money generated by oil production, because without question all of it would have been spent by now. Government consistently spends every penny and more turned over to it.

Now you want to "save" the PFD by confiscating any funds above some arbitrary, fixed amount. The fund will continue to grow, but all of that future growth will be sucked into the black hole of state spending. Not only that, but studies have shown your scheme will damage growth in the private economy by removing stimulus provided by the PFD. We are also ill-served by changing the funding source, making the PFD at risk for further confiscation. It is the height of irony that this Legislature is so focused on usurping a program that has been far more successful in directly helping Alaska citizens than any growth in state government has accomplished.

We desperately need fiscal responsibility in how our money is spent far more than the government needs increased or new taxes, and a takeover of the Permanent Fund.

Doug Swanson

Anchorage, AK 99507

#74

Maria Patricia Rensel

Fairbanks, AK

Issue: OCS

I am writing to register my opinion;

ALASKA should not fund OCS until there are safeguards in place to stop the systematic destruction of families, now a matter of public record thanks to hearings conducted around the state by Rep Tammie Wilson; throwing more money at it isn't going to fix the process or policies now being implemented or fix any of the problems being caused by this agency;

OCS is a casual source of harm to Alaskan families;

OCS case workers are not generally even qualified 'social workers' and according to the testimony of many, many Alaskan families who are forced to deal with OCS, the caseworkers are not qualified to do the job required of them; adding more case workers will likely amplify the problems that are being reported around the state;

the testimony in Fairbanks went almost 9 hours last Saturday, i listened to 6 hours and was not able to stay long enough to testify myself; a few OCS case workers plead that there just weren't enough of them to do the job well, but no one's buying that; the problems with OCS are attributable to extremely poor policies and processes; family court's lack of due process compounds the problems; adjudication in the family courts rarely result in good, fair or just outcomes;

atrocities are being committed against moms and dads, siblings and kids by this agency; if you haven't listened to the testimony or met some of the families who are in the system then you definitely should not vote to give this agency another dime or increase it's size and scope in any way;

if the legislature cares about kids and families, there is no choice but to defund this rogue agency;

Maria Patricia Rensel

Fairbanks, Alaska state

#75

Lynette Phillips

Anchorage, AK

Issue: PFD

Appropriating funds from the PFD to the state general fund is very premature with very poor planning. There must be more cuts made in the state government before that savings account is tapped. I ask that this bill would not come out of committee. The whole idea of using the PFD must be rethought and redone. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lynette Phillips

East Anchorage

#76

Larry DeVilbiss

Issue: PFD, No capital gains taxes

Finance Co Chair Foster and Finance Co Chair Seaton,

Please pass on to your committee my concerns about the Budget which is open for public hearing right now.

I followed quite closely the elections that took place last fall and noticed without exception every candidate agreed that we needed to cut our State spending.

Your action recently to draw \$4 billion dollars from the PFD earnings reserve signals pretty clearly that you are willing to prop up a budget that is not sustainable. That is a problem. I am a farmer and I know that if I am spending more than my revenues I am in trouble.

It is evident that from your tax legislation you hope to increase revenues but I hope you understand that every penny you take out of Alaska's private economy to prop up bloated government is a major step into depression and non sustainability.

I urge you to consider legislation on the Senate side that projects a 20 year sustainable budget without new taxes or restructuring of the PFD. We are that close to realizing the original objective of the Permanent Fund- to sustain the private sector and the government needs with a renewable revenue derived from the income of our non renewable resources.

I would also like to point out that HB 115 not only introduces an income tax but it introduces a capital gains tax. I have heard little testimony about this but that actually bothers me more than the income tax. Capital gain taxes make it very hard to pass on farm property to the next generation. It also inhibits investing in property and development both by resident and non resident investors. A minimum 10% shaving from the profits of a property sale undermines the viability of many investments- especially in the farming industry.

Bottom line. Please cut government spending. You can cover deficit spending today with reserves but when those are gone you can not expect the private sector to carry \$4 billion dollars a year. That is a formula for disaster.

Thanks for your consideration.

Larry DeVilbiss

#77

Mary Wegner, Ed.D

Sitka, AK

Issue: School Bond Debt



March 3, 2017

Co-Chairs Foster and Seaton, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Dr. Mary Wegner and I am the superintendent of the Sitka School District. I wanted to thank you for your commitment to public education in Alaska!

As a school district superintendent, it means a LOT that you have prioritized funding for early learning and K-12 education. Some of the specific educational opportunities we can provide our students in Sitka because we have legislators that support public education are the following:

- Teachers and staff committed to Sitka and to the community
- Learning opportunities that are unique to the place where we live
- Culture integrated as a way to learn content, as well as a way to learn about local cultures
- Music instructors at all grade levels and Arts instructors at secondary schools
- Low student-teacher ratios
- Technology-rich learning environment
- Local partnerships that enrich the learning experience
- Robust Career and Technical Education program
- Educational options for families
- Abundant athletic and activity options for students
- A focus on providing quality schooling for all students
- Support for the social and emotional needs of students
- Breakfast and lunch programs in all of our schools
- Schooling that builds active, engaged, productive, and well-rounded citizens – 65% of current elected officials went to Sitka Schools

Even with level funding we will have a deficit due to increased health insurance costs and cost of living increases. We are streamlined and efficient in our budget and are at the point where further cuts will have system-wide impact, as you cannot remove just one aspect of an integrated approach and provide the quality schooling we offer our students and community.

Additionally, please do not take away or reduce the state's commitment to previous school bond debt reimbursement. Doing so will negatively impact our local municipality, which will have an impact on the funds they can provide to our district.

Thank you for taking my testimony, and thank you for your focus on making sure Alaska's future is bright!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Wegner".

Mary Wegner, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

#78

Sean Colette

Issue: Cut Budget, No new revenues, PFD

Good Morning Elected Officials,

I'd like to say first that you took an oath of office to protect the Alaskans' rights and uphold the Constitution of this state and are contractually obligated to do so. They say it's important to get your message out early and then back it up with facts. So before your eyes glaze over let's get the core message of this testimony out of the way:

**As a citizen, I believe that our priorities should be:**

- 1) Continue to cut the Budget and reduce the size of State government.**
- 2) There should be NO New/Increased Revenues (taxes, fees and fines) until you cut the budget so that it is below \$8.3 Billion.**
- 3) Don't touch the Permanent Fund Dividend or Corpus. Period.**

To House Finance ... Attached please find \$110+ million in savings identified in HB 57. It uses a simple 3.5% reduction on selected budget items. For clarification that 3.5% is the amount that is automatically awarded as 'merit' increases to the state's union employees. My recommendation that you ask the Unions to abandon this practice for a period of no less than 3 years. While private industry lays off thousands of people around the state, this seems like a minor sacrifice to remain employed. Ultimately the unions have 2 choices, fire employees, or get the unions to abandon the 'merit' increases.

**Again: Cut the Budget, No New/Increased Revenues (taxes, fees and fines) until you cut the budget so that it is below \$8.3 Billion, Don't touch the Permanent Fund Dividend or Corpus.**

Also attached is a copy of Senator Duleavy's plan. Additionally, I've attached the FY17-18 Fiscal summary, so that you may familiarize yourselves with it. It is obvious, from Tuesday night's purported activities in House Finance, that you have no idea how much money is in the Reserves funds. Please review page 3 of the Fiscal Summary - the Reserves - as prepared by Legislative Finance. What is becoming even more clear to me is that you have no interest in the impact of your plans to Alaska's private economy. Two separate economists have opined that the current proposed budgets, offered in the House and Senate, are among the WORST options for the State and do the most damage to the private economy. Choking off the production side of the economy seems like a very foolhardy maneuver, especially in a recession.

What truly dismays me is that you do not seem to understand that the Permanent Fund is working EXACTLY the way it was designed to work. We have \$15-16 Billion in CB and ER reserves. We CAN cut \$1.1 billion over the next 4 years. It is a viable option and honestly from a long term perspective makes the most sense if you want Alaska to have a truly sustainable budget. We can do it, we have the time with current enough of reserves to last 8-10 years if we bring our spending under control. Please stop trying to kill Alaska's economy.

**Again: Cut the Budget, No New/Increased Revenues (taxes, fees and fines) until you cut the budget so that it is below \$8.3 Billion, Don't touch the Permanent Fund Dividend or Corpus.**

Thank you for your attention.

Sean Colette

#79  
Jody Tow  
Petersburg, AK  
Issue: School Bond Funding

**PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE**

Email: petersburg.lio@akleg.gov  
907-772-3741/ phone      907-772-3779/fax

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**YOUR FULL NAME:** Jody Tow, Finance Director

**REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF):** Petersburg Borough

**BILL #:** HB 57      Opposition to HB 57 Amendment

**Subject:**

**COMMITTEE NAME:** House Finance Committee

**HEARING DATE:** March 3, 2017

March 3, 2017

Thank you for taking public comments and testimony. While I appreciate the enormous task our legislators have for trying to balance the States' fiscal budget, passing on major expenses to the municipalities is not a solution.

The proposed amendment to HB57 to decrease appropriation for municipal school debt would pass an additional \$250,000 expense to Petersburg's taxpayers this fall. This would increase property taxes by \$90 for every \$100,000 of assessed value to our small Petersburg property tax base.

These State reimbursable bonds were issued to help pay for school major maintenance, a new aquatic center and a vocational education building expansion. The residents of Petersburg voted long ago on issuing debt for these projects with the assumption that the State would be reimbursing over 60% of the annual bond interest and principal expenses each year. Alaska municipalities issued bonds relying in good faith on the State of Alaska to live up to its financial commitments to education.

If the amendment to reduce State aid for school construction debt passes, it would also negatively influence voter approval of any future ballot propositions for construction projects in our community.

Please vote no on the amendment to HB 57 to decrease the general fund appropriation for municipal school bond debt.

Thank you for your time, I appreciate being able to comment.

Jody Tow, Finance Director

Petersburg Borough

#80

Craig Wells

Wasilla, AK

Issue: PFD

Honorable Representatives:

I don't like the way this whole budget is playing out. As a group you are placing too much emphasis on getting more money and not enough on cutting spending. The voice of Alaskans is saying spend less and live within our means...just like we do in our own households.

I lived here before oil and I remember having roads, good schools (probably better than we have today), and services. Granted, the population is larger now but the template is the same. Just because we have all these things in place now does not mean we have to continue to do so. Have you asked yourselves "what can we do without?" I'm hearing studded tire tax, a ridiculous one at that, state income tax, sales tax, and gut the PFD. What I see is get all kinds of new revenue instead of cutting.

I also have noticed that you've taken the reduction in your per-diem off the table. Why? You are willing to take money from my pocket but not yours!

Alaskans do not want these things. Personally I'd rather see the PFD divided up among the people rather than pay for a few more years of bloated government and then be gone, which is exactly what will happen.

You were all elected to do the will of the people. Please do that and cut this budget down to a size that matches our income. There will be a large turnover come election time if you choose not to listen.

Craig Walls

Wasilla, AK. 99654

#81

Eric Weathers

Hawkins Island, PWS, AK

Issue: Cut the Government

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR;**

**COMMITTEE:** HOUSE FINANCE

**CHAIR:** House Finance Chair & all Committee Members

**BILL:** HB 57 & 59

**SPONSER:** House Finance Committee

**DATE & TIME:** 03/03/2017 @5:00 to 6:00 PM

My name is ERIC WEATHERS, I live on Hawkins Island in Prince William Sound. For the record I **oppose** HB 57 & 59.

After seeing all the stories about how much you Legislators make in Per Diem, I had my wife contact the Legislative Affairs Agency to check the facts and it is true your yearly per diem is more than I make a year.

The people (the real working class) you're trying steal the money from are already living under the poverty level. Cut the government, we cannot afford you. Thieves should be in prison not in the state house.

ERIC J WEATHERS

Cordova, Alaska

#82

Denny Kay Weathers  
Hawkins Island, PWS, AK  
Issue: Cut the Government

**WRITTEN TESTIMONEY FOR;**  
**COMMITTEE:** HOUSE FINANCE;  
**Chair,** House Finance Chair & all Committee Members  
**BILL:** HB 57 & 59  
**SPONSER:** House Finance Committee  
**DATE & TIME:** 03/03/2017 @ 5:00 to 6:00 PM

My name is DENNY KAY WEATHERS, I live on Hawkins Island in Prince William Sound. For the record I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB 57 and 59.

Alaska's Politian's have created an enormous debt by the lack of a balanced budget and overspending and the misguided belief that you can get Alaskans to pay for anything you want. You are wrong; most people in Alaska can no longer afford you politicians and your rampant overspending which you use to gain the promises and perks from special interest groups.

Representative Seaton, since you were the one that blocked the proposal to reduce lawmakers' expenses I will use your public information from the "ALASKA LEGISLATURE 2016 SALARY AND BUSINESS EXPENSE REPORT".

Your 2016: Travel Expenses:	\$6,631.88	
Relocation Expenses:	<u>5,693.73</u>	excluding the M/V Tusty which is at no charge to the
Total Reimbursed Expenses:	<b>12,326.61</b>	Alaska State Legislature for that one trip
Session Per Diem:	<b>33,721.00</b>	
Office/Expense Allowance:	<b>14,303.31</b>	
<u>Salary:</u>	<b>50,400.00</b>	This does not include your retirement benefits or
What you reaped from Alaskans in 2016:	<b>\$110,750.92</b>	special interest group contributions, gifts and perks.

Representative Seaton, your yearly Per Diem stipend is more than many Alaskans make yearly in wages, and most of those people have to work a five day week throughout the entire year, you only work 90 to 120 days. These people have to pay for their own meals and travel too, but yet you want these very people to pay more to the bloated government you politicians created.

Representative Seaton, you have been working as legislator in Juneau over fourteen (14) years and I have not seen you make any real cuts during those years. You were also a Legislator on January 10, 2009 when the **Alaska State Officers Compensation Commission** issued their

Findings and Recommendations regarding legislative per diem; **DO YOU NOT REMEMBER THAT** the legislator's salary was doubled to \$50,400.00 per year and the long-term per diem stipend eliminated. How convenient for you to forget about that report. Mr. Seaton, you are a prime example of a Rubber Stamp Career Politicians at work.

If the Governor and Alaska State Legislature truly believe that we have a state budget crisis then it is time for steeper reductions, not taxes or raiding other funds. The state needs to tighten their belt and quit spending; only the bare bones essentials are needed. There are still many cuts that can be made to most State Departments as well as to the Alaska Legislature Salary and Business expenses. Many individuals and groups have provided both the Governor and Legislature with lists of cuts only to be ignored.

For over 40 years I have been dealing with Alaska legislators, most of which are career politicians willing to spend Alaskans money on special interest groups to garner votes and perks so when you leave the legislature you can move on to cushy government positions or become a lobbyist at the expense of Alaskan's. What we need is to **CUT GOVERNMENT** and stop the **OVERSPENDING**. The best way to start is by cutting the Alaska Legislature budget.

Thank you for your time. Any questions call me at 907-253-3745 or email me at [alaskanortherngirl@gmail.com](mailto:alaskanortherngirl@gmail.com)

DENNY KAY WEATHERS  
Cordova, Alaska

#83

Kyle Todd

Issue: Cut Government, No new revenue, PFD

Good Morning Elected Officials

**As a citizen, I believe that our priorities should be: 1) Continue to cut the Budget and reduce the size of State government.**

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**3) Don't touch the Permanent Fund Dividend or Corpus. Period. End of discussion.**

To House Finance ... Attached please find \$110+ million in savings identified in HB 57. It uses a simple 3.5% reduction on selected budget items. For clarification that 3.5% is the amount that is automatically awarded as 'merit' increases to the state's union employees. My recommendation that you ask the Unions to abandon this practice for a period of no less than 3 years. While private industry lays off thousands of people around the state, this seems like a minor sacrifice to remain employed. Ultimately the unions have 2 choices, fire employees, or get the unions to abandon their 'merit' increases.

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What is becoming even more clear to me is that you have no interest in the impact of your plans to Alaska's private economy. Choking off the production side of the economy seems like a very foolhardy maneuver, especially in a recession.

What truly dismays me is that you do not seem to understand that the Permanent Fund is working EXACTLY the way it was designed to work. We have \$15-16

Billion in CB and ER reserves. We CAN cut \$1.1 billion over the next 4 years. It is a viable option and honestly from a long-term perspective makes the most sense if you want Alaska to have a truly sustainable budget. We can do it, we have the time with current enough of reserves to last 8-10 years if we bring our spending under control.

Please stop trying to kill Alaska's economy.

**Again: Cut the Budget, No New/Increased Revenues (taxes, fees and fines) until you cut the budget so that it is below \$8.3 Billion, Don't touch the Permanent Fund Dividend or Corpus.**

Thank you for your attention.

Kyle Todd

-Edited Letter from Michael Dukes

#84

Linda Hobert

Issue: Cut Government

Cut spending first. You seem to be too lazy to even try. Seems too much special interest is the main concern, not what the citizens of this state want.

#85

D Riley Chadwell

Issue: Be smart

We've got to be smarter than what we're doing...everybody wants the same things. Can you please consider the following prior to choosing your reaction and final decision regarding wise use of our financial attributes belonging to your constituents.

#86

Edith M. Grunwald

Issue: Cuts, No new revenue, PFD

Dear Legislatures:

This is my testimony on the Alaska Budget.

**As a citizen, I believe that our priorities should be:**

- 1) Continue to cut the Budget and reduce the size of State government.**
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To House Finance ... Support HB 57. It uses a simple 3.5% reduction on selected budget items.

**Cut the Budget, No New/Increased Revenues (taxes, fees and fines) until you cut the budget so that it is below \$8.3 billion, Don't touch the Permanent Fund Dividend or Corpus.**

I request you support Senator Dunleavy's plan.

Please take action that is best for the Alaskan private economy (no political agendas, power plays or CYA). The Permanent Fund is working EXACTLY the way it was designed to work. We have \$15-16 Billion in CB and ER reserves. We CAN cut \$1.1 billion over the next 4 years. It is a viable option and honestly from a long term perspective makes the most sense if you want Alaska to have a truly sustainable budget. We can do it, we have the time with current enough of reserves to last 8-10 years if we bring our spending under control.

Take the actions necessary to reduce government spending. Private citizens' income is reduced with the dividend cut; this means private citizens reduce spending. Government has to reduce spending with reduced government income. No taxes. Taxes are an additional reduction in private citizens' income and put our economy in a worse state.

**Again : Cut the Budget, No New/Increased Revenues (taxes, fees and fines) until you cut the budget so that it is below \$8.3 Billion, Don't touch the Permanent Fund Dividend or Corpus.**

Thank you for your attention.

Edith M. Grunwald

Zip: 99645

#87

Wayne Floyd

Kenai, AK

Issue: PFD

Dear representative,

I am a very concerned about the recent amendment that has been made to attack the Permanent Fund Dividend. I am especially concerned that the amendment has lumped so many different measures together; that it is an "all or nothing" proposition. All of the proposals basically say something to the effect of "the continued growth of our state government is more important than the individual citizens' right to determine how their money is spent!" Even during the recession years in the 1980's the state government did not attack the state's economy. Instead government tightened its belt and cut spending.

To attack the PFD is to directly attack our economy! Let me give you an example why this is true. When the governor kept half of last year's PFD, our communities on the Kenai, which were already suffering from the loss of 1/2 of our oil jobs, went into immediate recession. You can ask almost any small business in Kenai and Soldotna, and they will tell you that this year's receipts are way down, some almost 1/2 of what they were this time last year. Even the state acknowledged that thousands of Alaskans were plunged below the poverty line by that action!

Another part of this amendment--the proposal to take a large portion from the PFD earning fund so that it can "be more readily accessible", is a short-term solution which creates a long-term problem. First any child can tell you the moral of the fairytale "The Goose that Laid the Golden Eggs" is that patience is a virtue when it comes to generating revenue. Taking any money or diverting it from the PFD earning fund is like killing the Goose, one leg at a time. You are destroying its ability to sustain revenues at its current level.

In summary, any increase in taxes will only throw out another anchor to slow down our economy. To expect the people to increase their out of pocket expenses to live here, is misguided. Taxation without reduced spending, reduces private citizens' spending, increases the number of people living in poverty, and reduces the jobs that would be supported by their spending in the economy.

Please do not allow this amendment to proceed uncontested! Please take a stand for all of the people of our great state, instead of just those who are interested in what the state can 'give back to them' through taxing and spending.

Respectfully,

Wayne Floyd

Kenai

#88

Brian Stanley

Wasilla, AK

Issue: Cut the Budget

To all of you who serve the people of Alaska:

**CUT THE BUDGET.** Before you take money from working Alaskans, who are lucky enough to have a job in this crap economy...**CUT THE BUDGET.**

Remember one thing: **ELECTIONS ARE COMING.**

Brian Stanley

Wasilla

#89

Ed Oberts

Issue: Cut the Budget, PFD

Rep Seaton,

Cut the budget....cut regulations and restore the PFD.

Don't use the Permanent Fund....there is NO justification to steal 4 Billion of our money.

Ed Oberts

#90

Robin Langlie

Anchorage, AK

Issue: Crime Victims Compensation Fund

I recently learned about a budget amendment Rep. Seaton is proposing. While I understand our state's fiscal situation is a mess, I am deeply concerned about this proposal. Cutting \$400,000 from the Crime Victims Compensation Fund could be devastating. Last year Anchorage saw a record year in Homicides and other violent crimes statistics do not show any declines. I understand VCCB may not have spent their entire budget last year, but that does vary year to year and if there was ever a chance that a victim could be denied compensation to bury a loved one, relocate for their safety or get the needed counseling after a horrific crime that would be devastating.

The most concerning aspect here though is that not only would those funds be taken away, they would be given to the Department of Corrections to assist the very offenders that are creating victims. Think about that. Victims are sorely underrepresented in this state as it is, and transferring that money to DOC is frankly, quite offensive.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

**Robyn Langlie**

Executive Director

Victims for Justice

1057 W. Fireweed Ln. Suite 101

Anchorage, AK 99503

#91

Ben Grunwald

Issue: Cuts, No revenues, PFD

Dear Legislatures:

This is my testimony on the Alaska Budget.

**As a citizen, I believe that our priorities should be:**

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I request you support Senator Dunleavy's plan.

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**Again : Cut the Budget, No New/Increased Revenues (taxes, fees and fines) until you cut the budget so that it is below \$8.3 Billion, Don't touch the Permanent Fund Dividend or Corpus.**

Thank you for your attention.

Ben Grunwald

#92

Alice Swaim

Homer, AK

Issue: Day Habilitation Waiver

I work for South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services in Homer as a Direct Service Provider and have done so for 6 years. A reduction in these services will greatly affect the life style and general well being of our consumers. They count on these services to give them the ability to carry on a normal lifestyle. Please give this issue serious thought as to the affect it will bring to these individuals that I have come to care for and love. Sincerely, Alice Swaim

#93

Robert Jahnke

Issue: PFD

If the perm-fund and - or PFD is to be tapped by the Governor then he should be the one capped at say \$500.00. This way he will know "his limit" to use for state funding and leave the rest for the local economies. I own a small business and I see it affecting my sales already. I don't have a problem sharing this financial burden but I see outfits like the cruise ship industry fighting increased head tax and winning those battles and this makes me sick. My kids and grand-kids seem to be the first to be thrown to the wolves by Gov. Walker. Please protect the Perm fund until "all" share in the burden. If my kids give up \$1,000.00 then so should cruise ship passengers. Thank you Robert Jahnke

#94

Jordan Conrad

Issue: OCS

Hi to whom it may concern,

I am emailing you to let you know I am against HB57 as I do not believe that more staffing for OCS is the answer. The legislator needs to be looking at their procedures and policies they are not following. I disagree with this bill and not for it thank you for your time and allowing testimony for this.

Jordan Conrad.

#95

Alana Davis  
Eagle River, AK  
Issue: Cuts, PFD

Gentlemen,

I believe we are at a very critical time in our economy here in Alaska. There are two directions our budget can go. We, the people, have elected you to make these crucial choices in our place. Please listen very carefully as we convey our concerns to you about our current spending.

Option number one is to continue exorbitant spending at the current levels or greater and paying for it by stealing from the PFD and implementing taxes of any sort with no thought for the overall economy of our state.

Option number two is to REDUCE GOVERNMENT SPENDING, thereby leaving the PFD account alone and implementing no taxes of any sort.

It seems to me that with the legislatures current course of actions, we are, at this time, choosing option number one - tax & spend. I am writing to ask you to please stop the out of control spending which will inevitably lead our economy to collapse. Make the difficult choices, cut the wasteful spending and do not add any taxes! Historically, no economy has taxed themselves into prosperity. It will not work this time either! I implore you to listen - NO NEW TAXES!

Alana Davis  
Eagle River

#96

Wesley Paajanen

Eagle River

Issue: Cut the Budget

Gentlemen:

In 1970 the Alaska state budget was approx. \$219,000,000 and the state's population was approx. 302,000 people for a total State expenditure of approx. \$725 per person. The FY 2012 budget was approx. \$13,000,000,000 and the population was approx. 722,000 for a total State expenditure of approx. \$18,000 per person !

The cost of state Gov't has gone up from \$725 per person in 1970 to \$18,000 per person in FY 2012 or 24.8 times as high as it was in 1970; THIS IS TOTALLY REDICULOUS, SOMETHING MUST BE DONE !

REDUCE STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDING INSTEAD OF ROBBING THE PERMANENT FUND OR  
INSTITUTING A STATE INCOME TAX OR ANY OTHER TAXES !!!!!

REDUCE GOVERNMENT SPENDING !!!!!

Wesley Paajanen

Eagle River

#97

Jacqueline Hansen

Ketchikan, AK

Issue: PFD, Cuts and Income tax okay

To whom it may concern:

As I drive along the Tongass Highway I see quite a few vacant and unused buildings. Yes, a few new businesses are popping up but many don't last long. Tourist season is fast approaching so some of these lots may be momentarily put to use but once the cruise ships leave, most of the money follows them right off our island. The cost of living is high here and rent prices seem to keep going up. Finances are tight for the average Alaskan which is why the PFD has been such a blessing. Most of our family's PFD goes towards paying our heating oil, and other necessary bills. Whatever little bit we have left we spend locally so we can support our neighbors and their local businesses. Shopping locally means we pay higher prices than ordering online but shopping locally means we are supporting someone's livelihood. Without the PFD, finances would be even tighter than they already are which means less going into local economies. Please, please, do not rob Alaskans of their PFD!! Please do not take the \$4 billion from the permanent fund earnings reserve. Not only will this hurt families but it is also not a long term solution!

If you need to make more cuts to balance the budget, then do it! My family and I are on a budget. If we don't have the money, we don't spend it. Government needs to do the same. We Alaskans are wondering where all our money is going. Where is our money being spent? What exactly and how much is going where and to whom?

I am okay with an income tax.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Hansen

(Resident of Ketchikan, AK)

#98

Helen Paajanen

Eagle River, AK

Issue: PFD, Cuts

Gentlemen

I would like to express my dissatisfaction with the vote to dip into the Earning Reserve Account to balance the budget.

Dipping into savings and shaving the PFD only weakens the state's economy. When you steal the funds of the Alaskan residents and then turn around and take monies from the ERA which is supposed to be re-invested to replenish the spending, you go broke.

You know, when your outflow exceeds your income your upkeep will be your downfall EVERY SINGLE TIME.

You must make more government cuts before you dig into the Earning Reserve Account. By taking money away from the citizens there will be nothing stopping the eventual collapse of the Alaskan economy.

Helen Paajanen

Eagle River

#99

Jansen Hansen

Issue, Cuts, PFD Buyout, Income tax

To the legislators and governing bodies,

I am completely opposed whole heartily to any plan that draws money out of the PFD or caps the payout to Alaskans like last years line item veto by Governor Walker. It is essentially a tax on the poor and middle class as this is your constituents that it significantly effects and hurts the most. My family is middle class and we rely on the PFD to pay for heating oil every winter. That is what you are taking away. Some people rely on it to buy food and that is what you are taking away. You are taking food off of the plate of a child. Is the government's excessive and unnecessary budget items really worth more than food and heating oil for families working to get by?

I realize that the big money donors don't have this issue. The rich in this state would much rather you continue to pull money from the PFD than an income tax or cutting programs that feed their businesses with money. The PFD check is a mere drop in the bucket for them and hence why it is essentially a tax on the poor and middle class. I don't want to see a income tax either, but at least the very nature of the tax wouldn't unfairly punish the lower income brackets like capping the PFD did and will do if continued.

I am not an economist and I have not spent a lot of time studying the state budget. I can not say without a doubt that there is enough waste that could be easily cut without adverse consequences to our state economy or operation. However, I believe there are cuts to be made and the cuts I have been seeing are not the ones that should be made. If I am being realistic though I don't believe Juneau will make the necessary cuts and/or probably not the correct ones. It seems that laying people off and freezing wages is the answer rather than what needs to be done and that is trimming the excessive spending on various projects and programs that either should be restructured or scrapped completely.

So how do we find a common ground if legislature is unwilling to defund or restructure these programs and projects? I actually crunched the numbers available on the PFD corporation website and do you realize that if you cut the fund in half and gave every qualified Alaskan one check that it would be over \$40,000 per person. I truly believe if you put that to a vote that it would pass with a majority; if you offered a one time buyout that essentially gave the qualified recipients half the PFD and relinquished the other half to the state to use at their discretion. The states half would fix the deficit and allow the state to move forward from it. Does it mean that we won't continue to spend excessively and be faced with the same problem 10-20 years from now? Probably not, but we can hope for the best and it solves our current crisis.

I have taken enough of your time, but will offer a brief summary. My position is this. First cut spending to projects and programs that are wasteful and don't cut jobs and freeze wages for state employees. The second choice is a PFD buyout. The third choice begrudgingly is an income tax. Lastly, absolutely do not continue to just take money out of the PFD or cap it, because it only hurts those that actually rely on it to survive.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

A concerned Alaskan voter

#100

Karen Perry

Issue: Cuts, PFD, No income tax. No sales tax, no capital gains

To House Finance members...

All I can say is WOW, you people that are trying to steal from hard working Alaskans are really beyond the pale!!

Selfish, arrogant elitists that do NOT serve the best interests of current Alaskans nor the generations to come.

Many of you are part of the problem from past sessions that have put us into this financial mess and now you think robbing from the people should be on our backs!

"provisions to increase unrestricted general fund revenue through sustainable use of the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve, and tax increases."

**CUT GOVERNMENT BLOAT!! NOW!!!**

Alaska is in a recession!! You cannot deny that fact!

Taking more of OUR hard earned dollars and OUR PFDs proves that you are too stupid to even be in Juneau.

You are NOT fit to "serve" and just who are you serving... the Governor, the lobbyists, the special interest groups?

Trust me, we are taking names and your voting records WILL BE EXPOSED!!

**I demand a NO vote on HB57 and also HB115**

These are the DEMANDS of Alaskan citizens:

1. Restore and Protect the PFD at 100% payout based on current calculations!
2. NO income tax
3. NO sales tax
4. NO Capital Gains tax

**ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS!!**

**THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING!!**

**YOU ARE REPLACEABLE!!!**

Cathy Tilton, Thank you for all the information you have been sharing and I ask that you MAINTAIN AN OBJECTION!

Voters want a vote record!! Thank you, we are looking for CHAMPIONS in the House, please choose to be one.

I want a written response from each one of you specifically answering my concerns!

And do not give me the canned lies of "it doesn't pencil out", "we will lose jobs", etc....I want intelligent replies that address the concerns of destroying local economies and small businesses all across the State!

Sincerely,

YOUR BOSS, (do you forget you are supposed to work for US??)

Karen Perry

#101

Lisa Short

Mat-Su

Issue: Cuts

House Finance Committee,

We have spent years with the blessing of revenue that allowed a budget that was almost unchecked. The other states have been running a conservative budget for many years. It is time Alaska steps up and does the same. We will not stand for a income tax slapped on to cover your inability to do your job. The population and WAGE earners in Alaska cannot foot this bill. Develop responsibly and make the cuts needed.

Let's consider some of the hand-out programs in Alaska. I've personally heard people state that they came to Alaska because it has one of the best welfare systems in the country. Is it a God given right to have a \$1 cell phone? Should able body individuals live off state assistance. I mean even Denali Kid Care incomes are extremely high. Teachers in this state qualify for Denali Kid Care. That is ridiculous when they can and are earning their health insurance through their school district. I had a fellow teacher tell me she chose not to elect to have school district medical insurance because Denali Kid Care was free, so why not?

1. NO more medicaid expansion.
2. NO state income tax. It doesn't tax equal and hurts only those that are working. Sales tax is the ONLY consideration.
3. NO capping the dividend.
4. NO increasing taxes on oil companies that will drive them out of our state.
5. NO spending money out of the PFD for things we cannot afford.

Just like every Alaska, it's time to tighten up your wallet and make the changes you have to. They may be painful but they are necessary.

**Say YES to making the government smaller, cap government spending, investigate medicaid fraud and cut all waste.**

You do not have the right to discuss these budget issues behind closed doors. You can never forget that you work for the people. You represent us, not your own ideas and interests. My husband and I are dual income earners and we are at work during the day. Communication and taking this to a vote is necessary. Once Alaskans feel like you have made every cut possible then we can start talking about taxes and only then. I'm telling you, my husband and I are raising 4 kids in Alaska and between Mat-Su Borough property taxes, federal taxes, the highest healthcare in the country, high cost of living, you are pricing us out of living in Alaska. Families like ours that homesteaded here will head south. This will be a sad time for Alaska.

This is an amazing project every legislature should be required to watch. <http://www.missioncriticalalaska.com/introducton>

Lisa Short

Born and raised in Alaska since 1975

original Valley homesteading family

You see ultimately, my problem is you will slap on a tax and once our economy recovers (because it WILL under Trump) then you will NEVER repeal the tax. My children and grandchildren will be stuck with that tax. We live in the greatest state in the nation. Get creative.

#102

Michael Dukes

Anchorage, AK

Issue: Cuts, No new/increased revenue, PFD

Good Morning Elected Officials

They say it's important to get your message out early and then back it up with facts. So before your eyes glaze over let's get the core message of this testimony out of the way:

As a citizen, I believe that our priorities should be:

- 1) Continue to cut the Budget and reduce the size of State government.
- 2) There should be NO New/Increased Revenues (taxes, fees and fines) until you cut the budget so that it is below \$8.3 Billion.
- 3) Don't touch the Permanent Fund Dividend or Corpus. Period.

To House Finance ... Attached please find \$110+ million in savings identified in HB 57. It uses a simple 3.5% reduction on selected budget items. For clarification that 3.5% is the amount that is automatically awarded as 'merit' increases to the state's union employees. My recommendation that you ask the Unions to abandon this practice for a period of no less than 3 years. While private industry lays off thousands of people around the state, this seems like a minor sacrifice to remain employed. Ultimately the unions have 2 choices, fire employees, or get the unions to abandon the 'merit' increases.

Again : Cut the Budget, No New/Increased Revenues (taxes, fees and fines) until you cut the budget so that it is below \$8.3 Billion, Don't touch the Permanent Fund Dividend or Corpus.

Also attached is a copy of Senator Duleavy's plan. Additionally, I've attached the FY17-18 Fiscal summary, so that you may familiarize yourselves with it. It is obvious, from Tuesday night's purported activities in House Finance, that you have no idea how much money is in the Reserves funds. Please review page 3 of the Fiscal Summary - the Reserves - as prepared by Legislative Finance.

What is becoming even more clear to me is that you have no interest in the impact of your plans to Alaska's private economy. Choking off the production side of the economy seems like a very foolhardy maneuver, especially in a recession.

What truly dismays me is that you do not seem to understand that the Permanent Fund is working EXACTLY the way it was designed to work. We have \$15-16 Billion in CB and ER reserves. We CAN cut \$1.1 billion over the next 4 years. It is a viable option and honestly from a long term perspective makes the most sense if you want Alaska to have a truly sustainable budget. We can do it, we have the time with current enough of reserves to last 8-10 years if we bring our spending under control.

Please stop trying to kill Alaska's economy.

Again : Cut the Budget, No New/Increased Revenues (taxes, fees and fines) until you cut the budget so that it is below \$8.3 Billion, Don't touch the Permanent Fund Dividend or Corpus.

Thank you for your attention.

Michael Dukes

--

Michael Dukes

*Senior Account Executive*

*Host - The Michael Dukes Show, mornings on KBYR*

#103

Jim Patton

Issue: Cut spending, No taxes on oil

Paul,

Alaska (as all governmental entities) has a spending problem. Yes, you lack revenue but you lack revenue because you've been over-spending. When this happens to people, they cut back but, legislatures don't seem capable of spending cuts (meaningful) no matter where they govern.

If you insist on raising taxes on people and businesses that make this state work, this state (which is in a recession) is going suffer and suffer for years to come. Companies will leave and people will leave, and jobs will dry up. The single principle source of revenue in Alaska is Oil. These companies will leave. Shell spent 7 billion and left. It is ten times easier and ten times more cost effective to drill in the lower 48. Why would they pay more to operate in harsher conditions with a hostile legislature? How many times have you people changed the tax code on Oil in the last 10 years (five, six?)? Heck, third world dictatorships have a better record. You're going to kill the goose that laid the golden egg.

You are at the precipice. If you implement an income tax, raise taxes and/or try and fix this problem, that over-spending created, on the backs of the people that make Alaska work, this state will go into a serious and long-term downturn. Cut spending, use the PF to right the ship and live within your means. It's simple. Quit spending what you don't have.

Regards,

Jim

#104

Ashley Bull  
Eagle River, AK  
Issue: Cuts, PFD

Representatives,

You need to make further spending cuts down to long term sustainable levels and reverse the raid on the ERA adopted in yesterday's amendments. The focus should be on the private economy and not saving government jobs! I have seen over the last couple of years many friends and family lose their jobs and most had to leave the state. I was hired in 2014 at a new employer. When I started, there were over 120 employees in my office. When I left the company in September 2016, there were only 4 remaining. Why is the private sector experiencing this dramatic of cuts, while the government is not?? The state government should be reacting to the public sector, they should run in parallel. There have been both job cuts and pay cuts to the private sector, and the government should also.

Everyone shared in the good times and now it's only fair that everyone one should share in the bad times. Your spending got us in this mess and taxation will not get us out. Why are representatives from Juneau being paid a per diem to live in Juneau? Isn't per diem to cover cost while being away from home? There are so many ways where the government can help with the budget, but yet you don't!!! It is time to make that change!

One last thing, LEAVE OUR PFD'S ALONE!!!! Do you realize how many people you are going to push into poverty with taking more money? Then what are you going to do when your tax base leaves the state and government cost more with more people in poverty? There is absolutely no reason or justification for reducing PFD's of minors at the very least!! How many people use their child's PFD for their college fund??? These cuts have a much larger impact on the long term future for these kids!

If these are such great ideas then let the people vote on them....

Ashley Bull  
Eagle River, Alaska

#105  
Michael Bull  
Eagle River  
Issue: Cuts, PFD

Representatives,

You need to make further spending cuts down to long term sustainable levels and reverse the raid on the ERA adopted in yesterday's amendments. The focus should be on the private economy and not saving government jobs!! I have seen over the last couple of years many friends and family lose their jobs and most had to leave the state. My wife's work went from over 100 employees down to 4.

Everyone shared in the good times and now it's only fair that everyone one should share in the bad times. All I see is government officials trying to save their own at the expense of everyone else. Your spending got us in this mess and taxation will not get us out. I have never been active in politics but if you don't change your thinking about not putting the private economy over the government, I will personally work my hardest to see you all out of office.

One last thing, LEAVE OUR PFD'S ALONE!!!! Do you realize how many people you are going to push into poverty with taking more money? Then what are you going to do when your tax base leaves the state and government cost more with more people in poverty? If these are such great ideas then let the people vote on them....

Michael Bull  
Eagle River Alaska

#106

Kathy Wallace

Ninilchik, AK

Issue: Medicaid Waivers

**LIO Homer**

---

**From:** Kathy Wallace <npolodging@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 02, 2017 3:37 PM  
**To:** LIO Homer; LIO Kenai

Dear Alaska Legislature:

I do support preserving services essential to my clients and to Peninsula and all Alaskan communities and increasing revenue to pay for them.

As it is, a number of my clients live in a constant state of unease due to the rule hanging over their heads that they may be unseated from Assisted Living Facilities--a stepped up program that appears to have begun in 2014 to cut down on costs to the State of people who might be able to make it on their own. This practice stresses the atmosphere in the homes and creates uneasiness among residents. What this push to empty Assisted Living Facilities did and will continue to do is to put people back on the street that will still not be able to make it. They will end up being picked up or worse as they were not sequestered into Assisted Livings under false pretenses to begin with.

As well, this has put many Assisted Living Facilities out of business on the Peninsula over the last two years. The extra red tape stresses out the ALF owners whose main goal was to help people--not to fill out copious government reports for which they are hiring extra staff--which decreases their earnings. This is not the time to stop private business in this State.

The Mentally ill prospective clients will not qualify for the Home and Community Based Waiver but that program or one similar would take care of their basic needs--food, shelter(housing), transportation, heat, and someone to check in on them. This would help keep our jails empty--not a good prospect for private jails.....or state jails for that matter as they operate on head counts.

Thank you! Kathy Wallace, Care Coordinator  
Ninilchik Point of Care Coordination  
11845 Sterling Hwy  
Ninilchik, AK 99639  
Office Phone: 907-567-3990  
Cell: 907-252-2508  
Email: [npolodging@gmail.com](mailto:npolodging@gmail.com)

#107

Tam Agosti-Gisler

Anchorage, AK

Issue: Fully fund BSA, Pupil transport and Bond Debt reimbursement

March 3, 2017

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

Please fund the 3 B's - **BSA**, **B**ond Debt Reimbursement and **B**using (Pupil Transportation).

The governor's vetoes last session placed the full burden of school construction bonds on municipalities. In Anchorage's case, that was \$10.8 million. The Anchorage School Board choose to use our savings to pay for this; we are unable to do this again.

Pupil transportation needs to be fully funded. We have been subsidizing this from our operating budget for two years. As you know, the inflation proofing of pupil transportation sunset on June 30, 2015, but our costs continue to rise. Increased labor costs occurred when the minimum wage was raised due to the state law requiring bus drivers to be paid double the minimum wage. That resulted in \$2 million annual increased costs to the ASD with no additional funding. Last spring, we reduced routes and found efficiencies by changing the timing of other routes but when the governor's vetoes for transportation occurred, those savings were redirected to cover that loss in funding.

Please know that we have already passed our 2018 budget as we must submit it to the Assembly by the first Monday in March as per municipal code. If you have an extended session past May 15th, teacher contracts will have already been issued. It will be very difficult to adjust should cuts to the education budget be made after this date. The cuts incurred last summer with governor's vetoes came less than 48 hours before our fiscal year began. Please commit to passing a budget and fully funding the "3 B's" in a timely manner.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tam Agosti-Gisler

President

Anchorage School Board

#108

Kerry & Teressa McClellan

Wasilla, AK

Issue: No ERA use

As a resident of the State of Alaska, we do not believe that taking money from the Earnings Reserve account is the way to balance the State budget.

In our household, if our budget is greater than our income, we cut our spending and take money out of our savings account if needed.

The Earnings Reserve is not the State's savings account and should not be used.

We do not support this proposed plan of balancing the State budget.

Kerry & Teressa McClellan

Wasilla, AK

#109  
Mike Decker  
Palmer, AK  
Issue: PFD

To the AK House Finance Committee:

IT'S NOT YOUR MONEY! It is so frustrating hearing how you want to keep taking from the residents of Alaska to make yourselves feel good. If the money is not there to meet all of your hopes and wishes then the answer is VERY simple. Don't spend what you don't have. You are creating poverty. You are encouraging indebtedness. Leave the PFD alone and start making REALLY spending cuts. I must live within a budget. If I have an unexpected need arise I have 2 choices. Work more or cut elsewhere. Pretty simple. How about working to expand mining (i. e. COAL), oil production, timber harvesting, etc... create some real jobs by utilizing our states resources. Make our state GREAT. The state make a poor parent.

Mike Decker  
Palmer

#110

Marty Van Diest

Wasilla, AK

Issue: Cut, PFD

I have been unable to make it to the LIO to testify because I have been too busy making a living. Please take this email in place of my testimony.

The house majority proposes to fund the state budget by taxing the people that they represent. Basic economics teaches us that new jobs come from small business start-ups. They do not come from taxes. Read this [short primer](#) about taxes and jobs.

This state has been able to fund their budget for more than 50 years from oil royalties and taxes. Because you overspent in the last few decades rather than saved the money you are no longer able to spend in a manner to which you have become accustomed.

If you had saved the money instead of spent it, the permanent fund would now be at such a level that it could easily fund the government without decreasing the size of the dividend.

In the 80s when the permanent fund was in the mid 20 billions the legislature saw a similar budget shortfall and wanted to use the fund to balance their budget. At least they had the morals to put it to the vote of the people. The people said NO. Now it is in the mid 50 billions but could have been higher had you not spent like you did.

Think of where this state would be now if that earlier legislature had the same moral compass this current one has! There be no permanent fund at all.

Senator Dunleavy has a proposed budget plan which would slowly decrease the budget over the next 4 years without taking from the people in the form of taxes or the permanent fund dividend.

You do not have to do this.

I ask you to turn back from the cliff...if for no other reason at least do it to save your own jobs.

Marty Van Diest

#111

Dean Kasischke

Seward, AK

Issue: Cut Budget, No taxes, PFD

Good Morning Elected Officials

They say it's important to get your message out early and then back it up with facts. So before your eyes glaze over let's get the core message of this testimony out of the way:

As a citizen, I believe that our priorities should be:

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Alaska's private economy. Choking off the production side of the economy seems like a very foolhardy maneuver, especially in a recession.

What truly dismays me is that you do not seem to understand that the Permanent Fund is working EXACTLY the way it was designed to work. We have \$15-16 Billion in CB and ER reserves. We CAN cut \$1.1 billion over the next 4 years. It is a viable option and honestly from a long term perspective makes the most sense if you want Alaska to have a truly sustainable budget. We can do it, we have the time with current enough of reserves to last 8-10 years if we bring our spending under control.

Please stop trying to kill Alaska's economy.

Again : Cut the Budget, No New/Increased Revenues (taxes, fees and fines) until you cut the budget so that it is below \$8.3 Billion, Don't touch the Permanent Fund Dividend or Corpus.

Thank you for your attention.

Dean Kasischke

#112

Susan Foster

Issue: PFD

Keep you hands off of our permanent fund!!!! This is just your liberal SOB's finding a way to steal our money!!!!

#113

Angela Camos

Wasilla, AK

Issue: PFD, Income tax or sales tax okay

Dear Committee:

Find other options and there are many. I've lived here since 1991. The PFD is important especially to those with low income to get the things that their children and families need throughout the year; that's the time they buy it. I know, I was a single mom raising my daughter here and that is when she got all her new clothes: hat gloves coats and boots for winter and school supplies. In addition to clothing for school and shoes.

An Income Tax, even a small income tax, would help to adjust the budget shortfall. You can cut government spending only to a certain degree and then you must do something different and attacked to bring in revenue generation is how it's done. Instead we've given many tax breaks to the very people and companies that take our resources and their earnings out of the state and provide a benefit to that economy rather than the Alaskan economy.

The state has never taxed income on out of state workers of which there are many. Even that would be a good start.

A flat tax everyone pays the same rate 5% of your income or 3% of your income and it doesn't matter what your income is.

A sales tax. That's another solution. You've rolled back taxes on corporations and tourism industry . Now all of the cruise ship lines that come in they only line their pockets; including Juneau and their other ports. They don't even give people time enough to get into the communities to enjoy the true arts from our local people. They aren't doing us any favors they come in and they take all their money and they leave

We could have our own local tourism - local folks start-up and bring in tourists. Alaska companies could even have her own cruise lines just for Alaska and create income and jobs.

Angela Camos

Wasilla, AK 99623

#114

Juanita Cassellius

Eagle River, AK

Issue: PFD

Rep. Seaton and House Finance Committee,

Take your own advice from last year when you published a statement with other House members that it was wrong to appropriate Permanent Fund earnings without a public vote! STOP usurping the rights of Alaskans who own the Permanent Fund!

The public can accept use of earnings for government if you pass SJR1 to guarantee the PFD in the Constitution. Please get this done, you will have Alaskan's agreement to use earnings then.

Our economy has been "superheated" for years, according to an experienced economist at the Muni (who is unnamed due to political repercussions for his support for protecting the Fund) and this slow down in oil production requires a gradual downsizing of government. It is not a Conservative issue (I'm non-partisan) it's a common-sense issue.

Let the people agree on the size of government and how to pay for it without restructuring the Fund at this time.

**Here is a petition below signed by 1300 Alaskans that supports these points. You know there are other options besides stealing the People's money. Thanks to representatives who are respecting Alaskans' rights concerning the Fund and who are serving the Common good of the Owner State!**

Thanks,

Juanita Cassellius

Eagle River, Ak 99577

#115

Meghan Nelson

Juneau, AK

Issue: Cuts, No ERA draw

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the house majority's recent move to withdraw from the Earnings Reserve Account.

Instead of cutting government spending further, as the majority of Alaskans support, it seems that democrats would rather place the burden on the Alaskan residents and on our fragile economy.

The PFD is vital to Alaska. It stimulates the economy better than any amount of government spending (see last year's ISER report) and it keeps more people out of poverty. We are in a recession and the last thing the legislature ought to consider is imposing new and burdensome taxes on the residents of this great state.

Furthermore, this move made by the majority limits the debate regarding the budget and eliminates other funding options. This is absolutely wrong.

The legislature ought to open this up to public input in the form of a vote. The ERA draw will impact our PFD and we, as shareholders in our mineral earnings, deserve to have a voice in this issue.

Again, I oppose a draw from the ERA and support any move that would 1. Restore the vetoed portion of the PFD to the people 2. Protect the PFD and it's current calculation 3. Reduce the amount of money spent in government.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Meghan Nelson

Juneau, Alaska

#116

Robert Gransbury

Issue: PFD

Leave the PFC alone, and restore last years PFD.

Robert Gransbury

#117

Vicki Wehe

Wasilla, AK

Issue: PFD, no taxes

Dear Committee Members,

Up until a year ago, I worked part-time for a State of Alaska government-funded (in addition to grants) non-profit. My organization has been zero-funded since FY15, and we could no longer pay for my position. Today, the organization is operated by one part-time person in addition to an all-volunteer board. It is operating at a lower level, but it is operating. The lesson has been that the organization had to prioritize its functions and ruthlessly cut the functions it could not financially support.

I expect the same from the state government of Alaska right now. You cannot afford to do everything you want to do. You must prioritize your functions and cut those you cannot financially pay for. Do not fund your lack of discipline with new taxes, or with ANY PART of the PFD. Take care of infrastructure issues. Minimize your involvement in peoples' everyday lives. Stop paying for stupid studies, polls, ideas, and busywork. Kill new entitlement and welfare initiatives. Alaska must operate at a lower lever so that it can continue operating at all. Many will hurt; it hurt me to lose my job. But we must learn to get by within our means, at every level, and we will survive. That is one of the unique characteristics of Americans, and especially Alaskans, that we must recognize, cherish, and even cultivate.

Do your job the right way. No new taxes, no raiding any part of PFD. Just do it.

Vicki Wehe

Wasilla, AK 99654

#118

Mike Coons

Palmer, AK

Issue: Cuts, PFD

My name is Mike Coons, from Palmer and speaking for myself.

This budget process has been the least transparent that I have seen. The underhanded actions of the Majority was expected, but not even to this level! The stealth dipping into the Earnings Reserve of 4 Billion is but one of the latest. I have called members of the Finance committee and they cannot tell me the actual number. Why? Because the majority is doing a shell game. Representative Johnson told me it was 5.1 Billion, but the latest CS of this bill is 6.6 Billion! If it is 6.6, then all the hard work over the last 4 years has been wiped clean!

Then the attack on all 700,000 Alaskans with a 50% tax on our PFD, a 15% income tax, a outrageous education tax, a tripling of gasoline and diesel fuel taxes. So you think this is good for Alaska? Not to mention the increasing of oil industry taxation so that industry, small and large, will struggle to even be here, and I do believe the small guys with the most to loose will leave!

We are in a recession, one that was brought on by Governor Walker and this Legislature. We could have passed a operating budget of 4.2 Billion last year and used the ER responsibly and then further reduced the size of government to 3.8 Billion and even less use of the ER. But no, the Democrats and yes some of the Republicans, refused to use the ER because of the negative attacks by the Democrat Minority at the time. Yet, you, now the Majority, see fit to use the ER, steal the PFD from the citizens and increase big government!

I know we have a strong 18 votes against this outrageous budget. When this passes the House, this and all the financial, personal and business negatives will come to light, it will be fully on the Democrat Majority and yes those so called Republicans that joined with the Democrats will be remembered as Democrats and traitors to the principles of less government that we hold dear!

Mike Coons

Palmer AK 99645

#119

Beth & Brian Cherry

Fishhook, AK

Issue: PFD

Ladies and Gentlemen-

I appreciate the opportunity to submit my written comments to the House Finance Committee. I am, however, disappointed in the manner in which HB57 has come before the legislature of the State of Alaska. The bill is an agglomeration of pieces of legislation that, by all rights, should have been dealt with individually.

The core message that I want to deliver is: Please stop trying to kill the Alaskan economy. Make the priority cutting the budget. For the future of Alaska it is imperative that the legislature act to reduce the budget BEFORE considering new revenue sources. Size the government to fit the economy not the economy to fit the government.

HB57 should rightly be titled: The Government Preservation Act.

Government has continued to grow at a breakneck pace over the past decade and as a result takes dollars from the private sector and transfers them to the government sector. It is distressing to know that solid economic models and plans are willfully ignored by the legislature. It seems that you have no concern as to the impact of your activities on the private sector economy of the State of Alaska. The recent raid by Governor Walker on the PFD, which went largely unchallenged by the legislature, was the single worst action the state could have taken. Recent work by ISER indicates that an additional 2% of Alaskans will drop below the poverty level as a result of the unilateral action by Governor Walker. I applaud Senator Dunleavy for his efforts at restoring the PFD.

It IS possible to cut at least \$1 billion from the state budget over the next 4 years. It is essential that the state develop a truly sustainable budget but it will take common sense and it will take discipline. Presently there is about \$15 billion in the CBR and the ER. Use that as a bridge.

Please, stop trying to kill the Alaskan Economy. Cut the budget. Do not touch the Permanent Fund and restore the Permanent Fund Dividend.

Thank you

Beth and Bryan

Fishhook, AK

#120

Marcia Stier

Issue: PFD

March 4, 2017

Greetings:

I am vacationing out of the country and cannot appear in person in Juneau today March 4, 2017 for the public testimony on the State budget.

The last time I wrote to the Alaskan Legislature oil was \$13 a barrel, but I still have the same opinion about the budget and use of the Permanent Fund. I believe that once a fiscally responsible sustainable budget is in place, then and only then should any of the Permanent Fund be used for the budget.

My opinion is the Permanent Fund should not be used just to prop up an unnecessarily inflated budget.

I support the following ideas quoted from Juneau Representative Sam Kito as expressed in the KINY radionews:

Quote:

"Juneau Representative Sam Kito says the biggest issue is addressing the looming fiscal crisis and legislators are actively working on moving a sustainable and responsible fiscal plan forward that provides adequate sources of revenue to support necessary and critical state services such as education, public safety, and health."

Unquote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and participate in the budgetary process.

Marcia Stier

An Alaskan resident since 1968

#121

Kenneth M. Thomas

Anchorage, AK

Issue: PFD

I have lived in Alaska prior to having the oil money flow into the state. In the seventies it was very obvious something needed to be done in the attempt to have the state not spend all the money at once, thus the establishment of the PFD. Since this program actually worked and there is a large pot of money the legislature always has attempted to appropriate the money instead of cutting spending.

We can do with a lot less government and not spend every cent that comes in to it. We need to look at how to cut spending not increase it by having high paid consultants, some of the programs, and many of the studies that do not need to be done. As long as there is this large pool of money the legislature will attempt to spend it just like the many people do their credit cards.

We do not need to increase taxes especially an income tax until there is a real effort to cut spending. Ignore the PFD with the thought that money is not to be touched.

Do not change things until real cuts are made on the spending. This may upset a lot of people, but the government needs to look at what is needed police, fire, etc. not all the things they do.

Kenneth M. Thomas

Anchorage, Alaska

99523-1629

#122

Peter Barela

Issue: PFD, Cut state employees

Hello to you all who are to serve the residents of Alaska,

Please do not take funds out of the permanent fund reserves. The state budget needs to to be shrunk by eliminating the waste of STATE EMPLOYEES!!

State government has grown to big and needs to stop.

Creating new positions of state employment to make yourselves look good to your constituents is a shame.

Shrink government stop the hemorrhaging.

Respectfully,

Peter A. Barela

#123

Michael Garhart

Issue: PFD

I , as a VOTER , am against HB 57 ! Government spending MUST be curbed , above ALL ELSE ! LEAVE the PFD ALONE ! We will be watching ALL OF YOU !